

R2 variant has alpha-amylase activity.

REMARKS

This submission supplements a response, filed June 20, 2001, to the Final Official Action dated May 18, 2001 and further is in response to the Advisory Action dated July 9, 2001.

Claims 77-81, 84-88, 90-92, 97, 113-126, 192-207, and 208-213 are pending. Claim 193 has been amended to remove an amino acid position. Claims 121-126 and 207 have been canceled, without prejudice. No new matter has been added by these amendments. Reconsideration of the above identified application, in view of the above amendments and the following remarks, is respectfully requested.

Response to Advisory Action

In the Advisory Action, the Examiner stated that the amendment filed June 20, 2001 would be entered upon the filing of an appeal. The Examiner further contended that upon filing of an appeal and entry of the amendment, the status of the claims would be:

Allowed claims: 77-81, 84-88, 90-92, 97, 113-120, 192, 194-206, and 208-213

Rejected claims: 193 and 207

Objected claims: 121-126

Applicants file concurrently herewith a Notice of Appeal and therefore, respectfully request that the previously filed amendment be entered and the status of the claims be modified as noted in this section.

Rejection under 35 USC 112, first paragraph

In the Advisory Action, the Examiner contends that claims 193 and 207 would remain rejected for reasons set forth in the Final Office Action dated May 18, 2001. It was previously contended that the Examiner was unable to locate adequate support for specific mutations.

In response, Applicants have amended claim 193 to remove mutation G433 and canceled claim 207. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection be withdrawn.

Objected claims

The Examiner contends that claims 121-126 would be objected to as being substantial duplicates of claims 113-118. In response, Applicants have canceled claims 121-126, without prejudice or disclaimer. Accordingly, Applicants request that the objection be withdrawn.

Objection to the Specification


The Examiner contends that the specification would be objected to because on page 4, there is no sequence identification number in the figure text of Figure 8. In response to this objection, Applicants have amended the specification to include a SEQ ID NO. Accordingly, Applicants request that the objection be withdrawn.

CONCLUSIONS

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is respectfully requested that the application be reconsidered and that all pending claims be allowed.

If there are any other issues remaining which the Examiner believes could be resolved through either a Supplemental Response or an Examiner's Amendment, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,



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PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

Docket No: 0776/1F216-US2

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: Svendsen et al.

Serial No.: 09/327,563

Art Unit: 1652

Confirmation No.:

Filed: June 8, 1999

Examiner: E. Slobodansky

For: Alpha Amylase Mutants

**MARK-UP VERSION OF SPECIFICATION AND CLAIMS FOR SUPPLEMENTAL
RESPONSE TO FINAL OFFICIAL ACTION UNDER 37 CFR §1.116**

October 29, 2001

In the Specification

Fig. 8 depicts an alpha amylase from WO95/26397 (SEQ ID NO:12) and the nucleotide sequence encoding the polypeptide (SEQ ID NO:11).

In the Claims

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193. (Amended) A variant of a parent alpha-amylase, said variant having an amino acid sequence which differs from the amino acid sequence of said parent, wherein the difference between said variant and said parent consists of a different amino acid residue in said variant than in said parent at one or more positions selected from the group consisting of the positions which correspond to amino acid residues Q298, G299, G301, Y302, L307, F343, F403, H405, H406, D407, L427, I428, D430, [G433,] and G475 in *Bacillus licheniformis* alpha-amylase (SEQ ID NO:2); wherein said variant has alpha-amylase activity.

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